



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

May 2, 2003

Max Golladay, Chair
Kittitas County Board of Health
County Courthouse
5th and Main
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Chairman:

Thank you and the other members of your board of health for allowing Don Sloma and me to visit with you recently to learn more about your priority areas of concern.

We were impressed by the concern on your board with the balance between individual rights and public health protection. Our discussion of these issues in relation to genetic privacy, isolation and quarantine and other issues were all very helpful. It will be useful for the state Board to know of your interest and active consideration of these complex issues.

Thank you for raising the difficult reality of ever shrinking state, local and federal funding to maintain adequate public health protection in this era of continually emerging public health threats. The state Board is on record urging stable, secure and adequate public health financing, although we have not identified a source for the needed funds. We will pass along the view expressed in our meeting that any new public health funding should be "re-programmed" from other government activities, not new taxes. We are sure that state budget writers will welcome any suggestions you may have as to specific government activities to eliminate to free up funds needed for public health.

Our meeting with your board was very helpful to our ongoing efforts to learn more about community perspectives on public health issues. As I mentioned during our discussion, we intend to use the information we receive from you and other Boards of Health in our 2004 State Health Report. By law, the state Board must produce this report biennially, together with recommendations for state health priorities for the ensuing biennium. You may see the 2002 State Health Report at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/Pubs/2002SHR.pdf>

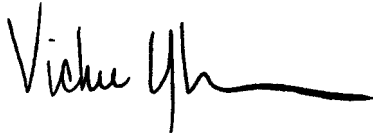
If you would like to provide additional information, other community perspectives or other suggestions for statewide health priorities, please feel free to call or write. We will be accepting

additional input from local boards of health for the state health report until September 30, 2003.
We are open to hearing from you about emerging issues at any time.

If you have any further questions or requests, please call the Board office at (360) 236-4110 and one of our staff would be happy to assist you in anyway possible.

Again, thank you for allowing us some time with you in your busy schedules.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vickie Ybarra", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Vickie Ybarra, R.N., M.P.H., Member
Washington State Board of Health

Cc: Kittitas County Board of Health Members
State Board of Health Members
Don Sloma, Executive Director, State Board